

Under 35 U.S.C. § 121, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is authorized, but is not required to restrict an application to one invention if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application. In view of the expenses that would be imposed upon the Applicants by multiple patent applications and multiple patents, it is believed that restriction requirements should be issued only when absolutely necessary; and the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding restriction requirement.

The traversal of the restriction requirement and the remarks regarding the traversal are being submitted without prejudice. Neither the traversal of the restriction requirement nor the remarks regarding the traversal shall be interpreted as disputing the Examiner's suggestion that the inventions of Groups I and II are patentably distinct.

Claims 15-18 are each directly or indirectly dependent on Claim 13. Therefore, if the Examiner does not withdraw the restriction requirement and if Claim 13 is ultimately found to be allowable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider Claims 15-18 on the merits and to allow Claims 15-18.

It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application at an early date is solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0415 and, in particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this Response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R 1.136 (A) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the

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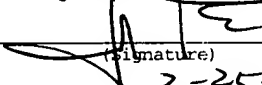
February 25, 1999

petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account No. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C., 20231 on


February 25, 1999  
(Date of Deposit)

JOHN PALMER  
(Name of Applicant, Assignee  
or Registered Representative)

  
(Signature)

2-25-99  
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

  
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